GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1105
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
MODERNISATION OF PHOTOLITHO UNIT OF MINTO ROAD
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had allowed the modernisation of Photolitho Unit of Minto Road Press sometime in 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during the period from 1990 to 1992, the capacity utilization hovered around 11% to 13% and from 1993 to 1998, it was assessed 15%, 19%, 38%, 40% and 31%;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Directorate of Printing justified the amount so incurred Rs.13.43 crore towards the modernisation of the said Unit;

(e) whether in restrospect the modernisation has proved to be a white elephant without enhancing the capacity utilization as compared to the Letter Press technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKR)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Modernization was done to switch over from Letter Press technology to Offset technology.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. Switch over to Offset technology was inevitable as Letter Press technology has become outdated. However, during the initial years after modernization, full complement of machines was not working due to shortage of crew. Reasons for low capacity utilization during these years are as under:-

(i) Short run jobs requiring more waiting and preparation time;

(ii) Multi-colour jobs with small print orders which slowed down speed of the machines.

(e): No, Sir. The Government of India Press, Minto Road,New Delhi mostly caters to printing jobs of both Houses of Parliament and satisfactory execution of such jobs is the main concern. Besides, after modernization there has been improvement in the quality of printing and time taken in executing urgent/time-bound jobs has been reduced substantially;

(f): Question does not arise.